

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053457

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PORG, EAID, MMOL, XE

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/RA - ROBERT J. MARTENS

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

1. HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE (LOU)

RA OFFICERS ATTENDED MOST OF THE SESSIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S
HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERN-
MENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON FEBRUARY 27-28. MOST OF THE
QUESTIONS IN THE LARGE PLENARY SESSIONS CHAIRED BY THE
DEPUTY SECRETARY AND PATT DERIAN CONCERNED EASTERN EUROPE
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WITH INITIALLY NO ATTENTION TO EAST ASIA. HOWEVER, DURING
THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION FOLLOWING A SECOND DAY
TALK BY HA/HR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHNEIDER, THERE WAS
SHARP QUESTIONING ON ALLEGEDLY HIGH LEVELS OF SECURITY
ASSISTANCE AND SALES TO THE ROK, THE PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA
AND IRAN.

A TWO-HOUR SEMINAR ON ASIA CHAIRED BY DON RANARD ON THE

SECOND DAY WAS ATTENDED BY BOB OAKLEY, MYSELF AND SEVERAL COUNTRY DESK REPRESENTATIVES AND FEATURED PANEL STATEMENTS FROM DON LUCE OF CLERGY AND TRINITY COUNCIL AND PEGGY BILLINGS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COALITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA. NOT SURPRISINGLY MUCH OF THE COMMENT AT THIS SESSION WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MANY EAST ASIAN GOVERNMENTS.

A SEMINAR WAS ALSO HELD ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND REFUGEES ADDRESSED BY INS COMMISSIONER CASTILLO. ALTHOUGH CASTILLO HIMSELF ADDRESSED THE PROBLEM OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN A VERY FORTHCOMING WAY, THERE APPEARED TO BE NO ONE IN THE AUDIENCE WHO WANTED TO SPEAK OUT ON THIS QUESTION. INSTEAD COMMENT WAS CONFINED TO THE HAITIAN PROBLEM AND TO SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS FROM GREEK AND BALTIC ETHNIC GROUPS.

2. MEETING TO REVIEW IFI LOANS (CONFIDENTIAL)

A STRATEGY PAPER WAS PREPARED BY RA FOR USE BY MR. OAKLEY WHO REPRESENTED THE BUREAU AT THE FEBRUARY 27 MEETING OF THE INTERAGENCY GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE CHAIRED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER. LOANS FOR THE PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA AND SOUTH KOREA WERE ON THE AGENDA AND CABLES FROM MANILA, SEOUL AND JAKARTA SUPPLIED IM-CONFIDENTIAL

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PORTANT SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA ON THE LOANS WHICH WAS UNAVAILABLE IN SEVERAL CASES BECAUSE THE LOAN DOCUMENTS THEMSELVES HAD NOT BEEN RELEASED.

THE TWO LOANS FOR INDONESIA WERE APPROVED WITH LITTLE DISCUSSION AFTER MR. OAKLEY'S PRESENTATION. LOANS FOR KOREA AND THE PHILIPPINES, HOWEVER, OCCASIONED CONSIDERABLE DEBATE. ULTIMATELY, SIX OF THE PHILIPPINE LOANS WERE APPROVED BECAUSE THEY BENEFIT THE NEEDY WHILE A DECISION ON A SEVENTH (NOT TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE IBRD UNTIL 3/28) WAS POSTPONED FOR FURTHER REVIEW. A DECISION ON THREE LOANS TO KOREA WAS ALSO POSTPONED. TWO OF THE LATTER COME UP BEFORE THE IBRD BOARD 3/14 BUT WE DO NOT YET HAVE A FIRM DATE FOR THE VOTE ON THE THIRD LOANIN THE ADB.

3. PREPARATORY WORK ON THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE NEXT TO LAST PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT HAS RECENTLY CLOSED. IT BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE A NUMBER OF DIFFERING PERCEPTIONS BETWEEN THE NON-ALIGNED WITH THEIR DESIRE TO PRODUCE A MAJOR BREAK-

THROUGH ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND THE MORE GENERAL APPROACH

PUT FORWARD BY THE WEST. THE NON-ALIGNED, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE WEST IS PUSHING TOO HARD ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS BUT IS NOT TAKING THE STEPS THEY FEEL ARE NEEDED ON NUCLEAR QUESTIONS. THERE ARE ALSO A NUMBER OF PRESSURES FOR A CHANGE IN THE DISARMAMENT MACHINERY INCLUDING SOME FROM AUSTRALIA WHICH HOPES TO BECOME A PART OF THE CCD.

OUR DELEGATION FEELS THAT AT THIS STAGE IN THE PREPARATIONS THE PROSPECTS FOR OBTAINING A CONSENSUS AT THE SPECIAL SESSION ARE VERY UNCERTAIN. HOWEVER, THE DELEGATION SUGGESTS THAT IF WE AND THE SOVIETS CAN RESPOND TO THE
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DESIRE FOR STEPS BEYOND SALT II TOWARDS NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND ON NON-USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME GENERAL CONSENSUS SEEMS BRIGHTER.

4. ASIAN COMMONWEALTH (CONFIDENTIAL)

A NEW REGIONAL GROUP IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC HAS GOTTEN UNDERWAY AS A RESULT OF THE MEETING IN SYDNEY LAST MONTH OF COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS FROM THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION. THE GATHERING, WHICH GREW OUT OF AN AUSTRALIAN INITIATIVE AT THE LAST COMMONWEALTH MEETING INCLUDED THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA, BANGLADASH, FIJI, INDIA, MALAYSIA, NAURU, NEW ZEALAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SINGAPORE, SRI LANKA, TONGA AND SAMOA. THE GATHERING APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL. IT ESTABLISHED CONSULTATIVE OR WORKING GROUPS ON TRADE, ENERGY, TERRORISM AND NARCOTICS, WITH THOSE ON TRADE AND ENERGY GIVEN A WIDE AGENDA FOR FUTURE ACTION AND STUDY. THE GROUP ALSO AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN 1980 IN NEW DELHI. ITS COMMUNIQUE WAS WIDE-RANGING, TOUCHING ON SUCH ISSUES AS POLITICAL TRENDS IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE PACIFIC, SOUTH AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, TERRORISM, DISARMAMENT AND THE INDIAN OCEAN. ITS PRINCIPAL EMPHASIS, HOWEVER, WAS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT, TRADE, DEBT, COMMODITIES, ETC.

COMMENT: IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW GREAT A REGIONAL ROLE THIS GROUP WILL ULTIMATELY PLAY ESPECIALLY SINCE ITS PARTICIPANTS VARY SO LARGELY IN SIZE AND INFLUENCE. THE GROUP EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS COMPLEMENTARY TO SUCH REGIONAL GROUPS AS ASEAN AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM. ON THE OTHER HAND SUCH A MEETING IS ANOTHER MANIFESTATION OF A DESIRE FOR A WIDER REGIONAL GROUPING WHICH HAS WAXED AND
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WANED IN ASIA FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. VANCE

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